



Nailsea School

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24 March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

I trust the Nailsea community are continuing to stay safe and well whilst adapting to the different learning and working conditions we have found ourselves in. As you are aware, things have changed again since my last letter to you on Friday and I felt it was appropriate to update you.

Students attending school site during the closure

Staff have welcomed students so far this week, but thankfully in a smaller number than anticipated. The school is appreciative that parents have heeded the advice of the government in encouraging schools to only be used if there is no alternative that can be found.

In order to support the work of keyworkers, the school will continue to remain open but with a further reduced number of staff in school. To ensure that enough staff are available to supervise students, parents need to notify their child's relevant Head of House prior to the day of their attendance. In line with the government guidance, and as parents will appreciate to safeguard the welfare of staff, I do not want to ask more staff than would be needed to attend school. Students should continue to report to the main reception at 8:40am to be registered on the day(s) they attend.

Uniform and Lunch whilst on site

Students attending school should NOT wear school uniform and should wear clothes that can be washed overnight. This follows guidance from the NHS, who have advised that any clothing worn in outside the home should be washed on a daily basis to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

Every student and member of staff in school over lunch will be provided with food from the scaled down menu available on site.

Arrangements for Free School Meals

As parents were aware from letters sent last week, the initial plan was for students eligible for free school meals living within the BS48 postcode to come onto site to collect them during the slightly altered lunch period (11:50 – 12:50pm). For those living outside the BS48 postcode staff have delivered food hampers this week. However, given the Prime Minister's announcement about more stringent measures being taken to prevent people being outside we are changing our approach.

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For the rest of this week staff from Nailsea will be contacting families eligible for free school meals to ask for bank details so that we can begin to transfer a payment of £3.25 per eligible child per school day. It would be incredibly useful if parents/carers had the following information to hand for the call, payments will not be able to be made with any of this information missing:

- Full name of account holder
- Full address of account holder
- Bank account number
- Sort code

For BS48 residents the daily amount per child will begin from tomorrow (25th March) initially until the end of the term (Friday 3rd April), and students will therefore not be invited onto the school site at lunchtime. For those families outside the BS48 postcode who have already received their weekly hamper, this will commence from Monday 30th March until Friday 3rd April. With the continued situation the school will then transfer regular payments in the hope that this will offer further support to our families until the planned government scheme is introduced.

Students working from home

Staff have provided work on Show My Homework for the first two weeks of closure (wk comm 23rd March and wk comm 30th March) - up to what would have been the start of the Easter break. We are aware that, with the unprecedented traffic on these sites during the last few days, there have been problems with students accessing work. This has also been acknowledged by the providers themselves. One suggestion is that students could use quieter times, evenings for example, to download the materials which they could use the following day. Some students have commented that they are feeling unsure of how to structure their time at home. Please find a suggested learning schedule attached that families may find useful.

Staff will be providing further work in due course. Whilst remotely working, teaching staff are being expected to plan further materials and respond to any questions or queries from students and parents. If you are in doubt about how to approach an activity please do contact the relevant member of staff via email. Staff email addresses can be found on the school website.

The Easter holiday period – wk comm 6th April – 17th April inclusive

The government has indicated that this will continue to be a period where schools are expected to be open for students of keyworkers. Given the ever changing situation if you require this for your child(ren), we are in the process of confirming arrangements and appreciate you giving as much notice of this as possible. As before, please notify the relevant Head of House if this is the case.

6th form offer letters

If your child has applied to Nailsea 6th form they should have received an email from Mr Reddiford, Head of 6th Form, on 24th March, offering them a place for September. This was sent to their school email address. I know that the situation regarding 6th form offers was causing some students concern prior to them leaving last week and this should allay their worries. If you have any questions/queries please contact Mr Reddiford, on jreddiford@nailseaschool.com

GCSE and A Level qualifications

As it stands, based on the information we have been given, grades for GCSE (Year 11) and A level (Year 13) qualifications will be calculated using a range of evidence. This may include marks for any work completed to date eg. unit assessments, the scores achieved for non-examined assessments and teacher assessed grades. There will be an expectation that any predictions from staff are professional predictions which are fair, reasonable and carefully considered. These judgements will be assessed looking at a range of first hand evidence, rather than a single source of evidence, such as a mock examination outcome. Similarly, target grades will not be used to help establish a grade. With regard to vocational qualifications, we do not yet have definitive guidance on this and when this is updated parents will be informed. I appreciate this continues to be an unsettling period for you and your son/daughter, and I do want to reassure you that we want the best for every student at Nailsea.

Given that we are only in day 2 of the changed working arrangements I am sure we are all still feeling both disbelief and disorientation. Please be reassured that Nailsea School, the staff and I will continue to be the constant for all of #teamnailesea in the weeks ahead.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher